

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Editor: GERALYN JOHNSON

Vol. 6, No. 1, Jan. 1994

C.A.A.G.S. MEETING

Our monthly meeting will be held on **Saturday, January 15, 1994** from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Beginners class from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

This months Beginners Class will be taught by **Marjorie Higgins** with the topic being "**How To Begin A Genealogical Search**"

Location: **Martin Luther King United Methodist Church**, 6625 4th Avenue at 67th Street.

PRESIDENTS LETTER

Dear members, a **Great Big Thanks**, for your confidence in my leadership ability as your President. The Board and Volunteers will continue to help you grow in genealogy.

If you have any research materials to help build our library or will help other members, we welcome it. Please send in your queries to the Newsletter Editor

We as a society are dedicated to uniting those persons interested in the pursuit and study of genealogy and family history. From the preservation of records to the publication of genealogical information; as well as promotion of

educational programs which will further our growth.

To our **New Members** who have joined we give a hearty **Welcome**.

If you have not renewed your membership it is time to renew. **Good Luck** in your continued research.

Ronald W. Higgins,
President, CAAGS

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THANK YOU LETTER

Dear Members:

My term as 2nd V.P. Membership has ended and I would like to express my appreciation to some special people; our members.

Throughout my term as 2nd Vice-President you have given me your time and support. I am thankful for your help and confidence in me and our organization.

May the year bring many blessings and continuous health.

Sincerely,
Rozella Hall

MEMBER NEWS

BEGATS KEPT HIM GOING

Submitted By:
Charles Johnson

It was the daily "begats" that kept the memory of past generations alive for the **Charles B. Johnson** family as he grew up. The begats went back from him to 174 when his **Revolutionary War** ancestor **Joseph Allen**, was born.

But more than oral begats were needed when he applied for membership in the Sons of the Revolution. The organization required documentary proof and an ancestor of the applicant served in the Revolutionary Army.

Johnson knew he had to search military records in Washington, D.C. to find the evidence he wanted. A retired lawyer, he left his Pasadena apartment and went there and hunted until he found the muster roll of the **Sixth North Carolina Regiment**. There he found the name of his ancestor, **Joseph Allen, a Sergeant** in the regiment of the Revolutionary Army. The roll was dated July 23, 1778, York Town. He had the document copied. It was the evidence he needed to show an ancestor was in the revolutionary army at that time. He needed this to

join the *California Society Of The Sons Of The Revolution*. **Charles B. Johnson** was elected to membership on October 23, 1993.

Charles B. Johnson was born in Detroit on July 6, 1921 to Buelah Allen, giving him his connection with Joseph Allen. His father was John Isaiah Johnson.

Checking the family history further, he found that **Emery Allen**, his great grandfather, was in **Sherman's** army on his march to the sea through Georgia. Emery was killed on November 30, 1864, in the Battle of Honey Hills, eight miles North of Buford, South Carolina, Johnson said. "There were 740 Black soldiers killed in the battle. They were buried in mass graves with no grave markers.

Harold Hubbard
Nov. 30, 1993

* * * * *

CAAGS RESEARCH IN SALT LAKE CITY

By: Colette DeVerge

On October 16, 1993, 14 participants boarded Amtrack in Los Angeles to attend our first research tour to the Salt Lake City Family History Library.

The first day we decided to all wear African attire and as we went into the library everyone there wondered what country

we were from. The next week was consumed researching from opening to closing, barely taking time for nature calls and lunch. Dinner was always a late affair for us where we had long discussions about the discoveries of the day and all of our new research leads. All participants, I am happy to report were successful in finding out some new information.

On our last research day **ANCESTRY Publications** was in the library taping for PBS TV. Six of our members: Marjorie & Ron Higgins, Sandra Kent, Colette Deverge, Marilyn White, Deborah Fountain were selected to be interviewed, explaining why and how we are researching our family history and suggestions we would offer a beginner.

As the train approached Union Station we were all in agreement that this was truly a "genealogist's dream vacation" and we are looking forward to this as an annual research tour for CAAGS members and friends.

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CAAGS INTERNATIONAL TOUR TO AFRICA

By: Colette DeVerge

We have planned our 1st International Tour to West Africa, November 5-18, 1994 visiting Ghana, Ivory Coast and Senegal. This tour is open to all members, family and

friends.

During our tour we will be visiting the countries with slave castles, forts and dungeons where many of our ancestors; though we may not be able to trace back that far were held and traded into slavery.

For the next few issues we will provide information regarding the countries that we will visit.

Ghana formerly called the Gold Coast, lies on the West Coast of Africa. About the size of Oregon, it straddles the Greenwich Mean, four degrees north of the Equator. The coastline on the south stretches about 400 miles with continuous crashing surf. The Atlantic coast is lined with sun-drenched, palm-fringed unspoiled beaches.

From the sea, low-lying plains extend eastward toward the Volta River Delta, an area of lagoons and swamps. In the southern part of Ghana and the Ashanti region there are virgin forests and great timberlands.

Ghana is a multi-ethnic country. The population of 145 million are very hospitable and friendly people. English is the official language and makes the travel throughout the country easy.

Modern Ghana is situated at the heart of West Africa's legendary Gold Coast. Five

hundred years ago, European explorers began searching for and discovering vast quantities of gold. Over seventy forts were established along the coast by warring Europeans to exploit the gold and export slaves.

Ghana is a story of grandeur and promise. Attaining self rule from the British in March 1957, it is the first sub-Saharan, African country to attain independence. Over the years ideals of Pan Africanism, instituted by Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first Head of State, have been the core of the national philosophy.

Accra is the capital and is a sophisticated city of monuments and shrines. Accra is also where the final library of W.E.B. DuBois is located. Places to visit; the National Museum, the DuBois Center, the Nkrumah Memorial Park, The University at Legon and the New National Theater.

Visitors to Ghana will always be met with smiles and "AKWAABA" (You are welcome).

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members:

James Carl Allen, Sr. - researching surnames Allen, Madkins, Myers, Walker.

DeVaughn Lee

Evelyn L. Ross - researching surnames Jackson, Chapman, Dinwiddy, Dixon.

* * * * *

CAAGS members and those who wish to become members the **1994 Membership Fee (\$20 Family, \$15 Single, \$10 Student, \$25 Organization)** is now due. The dues cover the Calendar Year from January to December.

For renewal memberships if you have not paid your dues by March 1st you will be discontinued from the mailing list. Please mail checks to: **Membership Chairperson, Colette DeVerge, P.O. Box 8442, L.A., CA 90008.**

HISTORY NOTES

WHEN MACKSVILLE BECAME WEST TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Submitted By: Rozella Hall

Monday morning, January 1, 1900: Beginning today, Jan. 1, 1900, Macksville will be known as West Terre Haute, and all letters must be addressed accordingly. The postmasters all over the united States will strike the name Macksville off their lists and substitute West Terre Haute instead, and it will be known only by that name in the future.

Terre Haute Express
Linda Herrick Swisher
The Hoosier Genealogist

I REMEMBER, WHEN

By Leonard Ratliff

I remember many things that took place when I was a child during WWII. Ration coupons were given out for coffee, butter and sugar. My mother would trade coffee coupons, with friends and neighbors, for butter & sugar coupons. I guess we used more butter and sugar than we drank coffee.

When we could not get butter, there was this miricle called Margine. It didn't come premixed as it does today. I would mix this white creamy stuff and a small package of yellow coloring or flavoring, with a wooden spoon in a yellow bowl, and like magic it became margarine.

I remember my job being to roll the empty toothpasteso my mother could turn it in for a new one. Toothpaste tubes were made of metal then and were recycled because of the shortage of metal during WWII.

Everything was rationed and most luxuries were not available. Things like new bicycles and cars. My best friend, Floyd Stewart, had a beautiful Cream & Marron Columbia bicycle. He would let me ride it if we were not fighting about someting. I wished that I could have a bike just like Floyds. When the war was over and my dad came home from Europe he promised me a bike for my birthday. Guess what kind of

bike I wanted? A Columbia, Cream & Marron. My dad and I went to Western Auto to buy one. There was a waiting list of nine months because of the shortage of metal. We waited and it finally came.

During the same time my dad wanted a new car and we went looking. He decided on a Studeraker, light blue with white sidewall tires and plenty of chrome. In about 15 months the car came and it was the most beautiful machine I had ever seen. You could not tell if it was coming or going. The front looked like the back with glass all around.

One of the things I looked forward to was, every Saturday morning my mother would give me 25 cents. With 25 cents I would go to the movies at the Cameo (ticket, 10 cents), popcorn, hotdog and Grapette Soda (5 cents each). It was always a "Double Feature" with cartoons and Superman Series.

I remember, do you!

RESEARCH NOTES

MARTIN COUNTY RAILROAD WORKERS LIVING IN BOXCARS, SHOALS TOWN 1910

Submitted By:
Rozella Hall

According to the census taker.

this was the unenumerated part of a Rail Road Construction camp living in box cars and having no real head or relationship. They moved in after my first visit and I enumerated those that had not been enumerated elsewhere on May 11." They were living on Rail Road Street. The key follows the one above for the poor asylum, except that relationship has been omitted and color has been substituted for sex. All of these were male except for Laura Aldon.

Note: The following information is listed accordingly. Name, color/race, age, marital status, birthplace of person listed, birthplace of father, birthplace of mother, occupation.

Peters, Bill - Black, 49, Widow, KY-Not Known-Ky-Hod Carrier.

Monroe, Minor - Black, 29, Single, KY-KY-KY-Laborer.

Aldon, Laura - Black, 33, Married, KY-KY-KY, Cook for R.R. Construction.

Stringer, Harry - Black, 25, Single, KY-KY-KY, Laborer.

Scott, William - Mulatto, 34, Single, RI-RI-RI, Cook.

Aldon, William - Black, 38, Married, KY-KY-KY, Cook.

Davis, Henry - Black, 50, Widow, TN-Unknown-Unknown, Laborer.

Short, Herbert L. - Black, 20, Single, TN-TN-TN, Laborer.

Hutson, John - Black, 44, Single, KY-KY-KY, Laborer.

Calvin, Harry - Black, 25, Single, TN-TN-TN, Laborer.

Garrison, Thomas - Black, 46, Widow, KY-KY-KY, Laborer.

Lial, Del - Black, 35, Widow, MO-MO-MO, Laborer.

Jackson, John - Mulatto, 31, Married, TN-TN-TN, Laborer.

White, Eugene - Black, 21, Single, KY-KY-KY, Laborer.

Kilbrew, James - Black, 35, Single, GA-GA-GA, Laborer.

Thomas, Oliver, Black, 49, Widow, OH-OH-OH, Laborer.

Williams, Harrison, Black, 23, Single, KY-SC-KY, Laborer.

English, Hade - Black, 27, Single, KY-KY-KY, Laborer.

Thomas, Aaron - Black, 19, Single, VA-VA-MS, Laborer.

Indiana Genealogist Vol. 4
Issue 4, Pg. 167,168 12/93

INDIAN MARRIAGES

Submitted By:
Ron Higgins

White people who married Indians were not listed on the U.S. Census records if the marriage took place in OK, AR, or MO before 1889. They were considered part of the

the U.S. Census records if the marriage took place in OK, AR, or MO before 1889. They were considered part of the Indian Nation into which they married. In 1905, all Indians had to fill out a claim including children, grandparents, birth, death, etc. The National Archives has these applications from the Court of Claims.

Omaha NE Newsletter
Via Gen. Soc. of
N. Orange Cty., CA

ANNOUNCEMENT

Our society now owns its own overhead projector which was used last month in the beginners class. The projector was donated by those who attended our 1st Salt Lake City Family History Tour.

QUERIES

ELVY COOPER JR. - is seeking any information of the following persons. **Solomon Cooper** born 1848 in Louisiana, married **Jemimah (Blackburn) Shelliday** 8/10/1864, Vicksburg, Warren County, Mississippi. Together they had 10 children: **Abraham** 1868, **Mariah (Harris)** 1869, **Preston** 1872, **Giles** 1877, **Rachael (Woods)** 1880, **Willis & Ellen** 1881, **Clark** 1884, **Lillie** 1887, **Mary (Wilson)** 1889.

Clark married Birdie Walton

about 1902. Their children **William** 1903, **Elvy** 1905, **Birdie (Lewis)** 1907, **Moses** 1909. His second wife was **Grace LeMay (Breckenridge)** Robinson 1916. Their children **Ulysses Simpson Pete** 1917, **Eunice Viola (Johnson)** 1920.

Elvy Cooper Sr. married **Estella Mae Owens** 11/20/1930. Their children **Eugene** 1931, **Herman & Sherman** 1933, **Dorothy Mae** 1937, **Elvy Jr.** 1938, and **Helen** 1948.

Solomon and his twin brother **Abraham** moved from **Madison Parish, Louisiana** by 1880 to **Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas** and started the **Second Baptist Church** built in 1882 which later became **Pilgram Baptist church**. Both brothers homesteaded in **Kingfisher County, Oklahoma**.

After **Solomon** died in 1908 **Jemimah** remarried **Henry Smith** and lived with the **Smith** family till her death in 1927.

If you have any information on the above children or family members please contact: **Elvy Cooper Jr., 15435 Hawthorne Blvd. #4, Lawndale, CA 90260 (310) 679-1350.**

GEORGE GARNER - is searching for descendants of **Rufus and Mattie Tolbert**, who lived in **Louisville, KY.**, in 1900. If you can be of assistance, write to **George Garner, 18540 St. Aubin, Detroit, MI 48234.**

CHARLES BENJAMIN - is searching for descendants of brothers **Aaron and Orrin Hawley**, who lived in **Redding and Woodbury, Conn.**, between 1821 and 1900, and joined the **29th Connecticut Colored Infantry Regiment** in 1864 to fight in the **Civil War**. If you can be of assistance, write to: **Charles B. Hawley, 3721 Ferrara Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906-4767, call (301) 942-3954 or contact via Prodigy (ID-JKFPO2A).**

JEANNETTE BURROUGHS WALKER - daughter of **Frank Wadkins Burroughs**, is searching for descendants of her grandparents **David and Eliza Burroughs** of **Henderson, N.C.**, who had 13 children, of which fore-father **Frank, Marie, Margaret, and Percy**, all deceased--moved to **New York City**. If you can be of assistance, write to: **Jeannette Burroughs Walker, 110 West End Avenue, #8A, New York, NY 10023.**

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA - is searching for information on the descendants of **Catherine "Kitty" Foster**, a free black whose family's burial site was recently found there. The family whose descendants include **Watsons, Washingtons, Smiths and Morris**, owned the property from 1833 to 1906. If you can be of assistance call: **Armstead Robinson, (804) 924-3109.**

OBITUARY

XERXESXPHON WALKER

Passed away on December 12, 1993 from complications of Cancer. He is survived by his wife, Myrtle Christine Douglass Walker, 2 daughters, and four grandchildren.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 17, 1994

The Rialto Black History Committee, Inc. will be hosting their 9th Annual Martin Luther King Luncheon, San Bernardino Hilton, 285 E. Hospitality Drive, San Bernardino, 11:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. \$25.00. Call 909-874-2989 Hattie Inge or 909-820-0935.

February 2 - 6, 1994

Salute To Black Artist - an annual event to showcase artist working in various media. This years featured artist are: **Bernard Stanley Hoyes** and **Annie Lee**. Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Shopping Center at Martin Luther King Blvd., and Crenshaw Blvd. from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

February 5, 12, 19, 26, 1994 Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum - is sponsoring four free seminars for Black History Month. They are as follows:

Feb. 5th - In Search Of A Racial Frontier; an overview

of the Black West with Quintard Taylor, PhD, Prof. University Of Oregon.

Feb. 12th - Western Towns For Blacks; Kenneth M. Hamilton, PhD Professor Southern Methodist University.

Feb. 19th - Black America And The California Dream; Lonnie Bunch, PhD Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Smithsonian Institution.

Feb. 26th - Black San Francisco, The Struggle For Racial Equality in the West 1900 - 1954; Albert Broussard, PhD, Professor from Texas A&M University. For more information call 213-667-2000.

February 26, 1994

Trace Your African and Native American Indian Roots - Discover the rich cultural heritage of Africans and Indians, their historical relationship and contributions to the world. Lecturer, Joyce Chappel. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. \$35.00.

THANK YOU

To all who contributed to the events calendar in this months Heritage Newsletter: Renae Cochee, Joyce Chappel.

December Refreshment Committee: Marion Gardner, Cecelia Alleyne, Marjorie & Ron Higgins, Colette DeVerge,

Rozella Hall.

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Send all newsletter information to: **Geralyn Johnson, 5130 Village Green, L.A., CA 90016** or call (213) 296-6792. The deadline for the February issue is February 7, 1994.



CALIFORNIA AFRICAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

November 15, 1993

Dear Fellow Genealogist,

As 1994 is just a few weeks away, I want to remind all of our current members, former members and prospective members that the California African American Genealogical Society has excellent and varied programs planned for the coming year.

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month at Martin Luther King United Methodist Church, 6626 4th Ave. at 9:00 am. A beginners workshop is held at each meeting.

Membership renewal is always a great concern for our society. We need you in our organization. Please take a few moments to fill out the enclosed renewal/survey form, enclose your 1994 dues, and give careful consideration to the "How I can help the Society"

We are establishing a surname index, so please include your data for this index.

Please renew your membership promptly. Invite your friends to join the society and attend our meetings each month.

See you in 1994.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Higgins
Correspondence Secretary.



CALIFORNIA AFRICAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

1994 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND SURVEY:

DATE: _____

CHECK TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

- L- LIBRARIES (DUES \$15) _____
- I- INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP (DUES \$15) _____
- F- FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (DUES \$20) _____
- S- STUDENT (DUES \$10) _____
- O- ORGANIZATION (DUES \$25) _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE # () _____

SURNAMES RESEARCHED:

HOW I CAN HELP THE SOCIETY:

- _____ BEGINNERS WORKSHOP
- _____ COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS
- _____ ABSTRACT RECORDS
- _____ HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE
- _____ WRITE ARTICLES
- _____ PUBLICITY
- _____ COPY TOMBSTONES
- _____ OTHER: _____

SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS AT FUTURE MEETINGS? _____

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Editor: GERALYN JOHNSON

Vol. 6, No. 2, Feb. 1994

C.A.A.G.S. MEETING

February 19, 1994
CAAGS FIELD TRIP:

On February 19, 1994 we will be meeting at the **MAIN LIBRARY IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES**, 633 W 5th Street, at 10:00 a.m. in the Genealogy Department. Enter at the 5th Street entrance and go to Meeting Room A.

Michael Curley will give us a 1/2 hour tour of the Genealogy/History section which holds a wealth of genealogical information including: *Civil War draft registrations, Indian Census records as well as regular Census records; City Directories, County Histories and much more.*

Parking is available at 524 S. Flower (Sr Citizens \$2.20 all day) \$5.50 regular Also available at 550 S. Hope St. \$2.20 all day

NOTE: The Beginners Class will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at **Martin Luther King United Methodist Church**, 6625 4th Avenue at 67th Street.

PRESIDENTS LETTER

Dear members, this is Black History Month. African Americans celebrate their heritage during the entire month of February. At one time the celebration was only one week. Genealogy is a large part of our heritage. Searching the past you will find colorful oral history and family stories. The very nature of our life involves our ancestors, which includes grandparents, parents, siblings, aunts uncles and sometimes spouses. Invariably you will find the past present and future will cross and become entwined in each other

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome new member:

Joyce Sumbi

TRAVELOGUE

In the upcoming months we will feature this column written by Colette DeVerge; describing what we may expect and encounter on our upcoming October tour to Africa. This months travelogue will give us background on the slave castle in Ghana.

THE SLAVE FORTRESS OF GHANA

By : Colette DeVerge

Along a 156 span more than 25 stone structures remain as testament to the slave trade. Cape coast in the central region is a world heritage district. The forts and castles there played a significant role in the history of mankind. The castles of Elmina and St. George became the last view of the homeland for millions of africans herded through the portals into slavery easily accessible by roads Elmina is 93 miles Accra at the end of the western edge of Ghanas central region with St. George at the end of the bay

Built in 1482 by the Portuguese in the area called Mina de Ouro (The Gold Mine) after they found vast quantities of the precious metal there. The castle is the oldest european structure in Sub Saharan Africa. For more than 100 years the area around El Mina was the center of a thriving trade in gold ivory and peppers which the africans supplied in abundance. and cloth, beads metals and hardware which the Portuguese brought from Europe. After 2 unsuccessful attempts to take El Mina the

Dutch captured the castle in 1637 with a assault from the land. Mindful of similar threats, they built Fort Coenraadsburg on St. Lago Hill where it keeps watch to this day over St. George's rear. The great castle ten became the African headquarter of the Dutch West Indies Company whose business was supplying the needs of the new world's great plantations. Foremost among these was the need for labor. The Dutch became the slave trades masters. El Minas storerooms were converted to dungeons as other European powers built Lodges and Forts on what became known as the Gold Coast, and began competing fiercely for their share of the trade from the mid 1600's on.

The building that once housed a portuguese Catholic Church became El Mina's slave market where African Dealers brought their captives many victims of tribal wars. By the end of the 18th century, an estimated 68,400 slaves were exported from Africa each year 41,000 came from west Africa according to public accounts of the times. Of those, 10,000 left from El Mina's shores when the castle was operating at full capacity according to the Museum and Monuments Board of Ghana. A double moat now dry guarded the entrance to the vast rectangular 97,000 square foot castle built by the Portuguese, Dutch, Germans, Danes, Swedes, French and British over the course of 4 centuries.

Purchased on the end of a rocky Peninsula it's four great watch towers command a view of the surrounding sea. Above on the land side 6 12 foot long dutch cannons are aimed at the town. Inside an erie stillness hangs over a long stone courtyard illuminated by the suns unrelenting glare. The experience of the slave castle is never to be forgotten.

HISTORY NOTES

WILLIAM JOHNSON - EMANCIPATED SLAVE

Submitted By: Vernon Robinson

William Johnson like his well to do contemporaries in Natchez some 150 years ago, lived in a stately home and owned slaves, but the similarities ended with the color of his skin.

Johnson was Black, a member of a little-known aristocracy of free Blacks, living in pre-Civil War Natchez.

Born a slave in 1809, Johnson was emancipated at age 11 by the white man who both fathered and owned him, Gaumer said. "Though he became a prominent citizen, he had to live by the laws of the time...he couldn't vote or enjoy many of the privileges of white men."

Johnson's 210 State Street home is being restored for the public by the National Park Service. The process is being

aided by Johnson himself, by virtue of another trait that made the man unique.

Owner of several busy barber shops, Johnson absorbed his clients talk of politics and town gossip and recorded this in a diary he kept for 16 years. The diary was discovered in the attic of his home in 1938 and published in 1961. The journals 2,000 plus pages provide an account of free Black life in the old South.

This written history source tells of gunfights, fistfight, fires and tornadoes; of dances and social events from which Johnson was often excluded - and of births, deaths and illnesses, including a devastating epidemic of yellow fever

Johnson's household included his wife, former slave Ann Battles, and their 10 children. The family lived on the home's second floor and rented out the ground floor to various businesses, records show

"There were no Black or White areas in Natchez," Gaumer said. "In fact, the house where Jefferson Davis lived was visible from the Johnson house."

Business practices among Blacks and Whites likewise carried few distinctions. Johnson acquired property, loaned money, donated to charity and owned slaves.

Some African-Americans are

aghast that a Black man owned slaves, but having slaves was normal for upwardly mobile people."

The William Johnson Home Museum will house photographic exhibits and artifacts uncovered in archaeological digs at the site.

For more information contact the Natchez Convention and Visitor's Bureau at 1-800-647-6724.

The Communicator
Chicago, IL Winter 93

DR. BURT'S HOME INFIRMARY

Submitted By: Rozella Hall

On July 3, 1993 a historical marker was erected on Riverside Drive in Clarksville to honor Dr Robert T Burt, founder of Clarksville's first hospital, the **Home Infirmary**.

The project was sponsored by the *Leaf-Chronicle* and Memorial Hospital with the dedication being held on the site of the early hospital.

Dr Robert Tecumseh Burt, Negro physician and civic leader was one of Clarksville's best loved and most respected citizens during the first half of the twentieth century.

In 1904, after graduation from Meharry Medical School and five years of successful practice in McMinnville, the young

surgeon opened an office on Third Street. Shortly thereafter, he opened **The Home Infirmary**, a hospital for Black patients. This institution was actually the first hospital in Clarksville pre-dating the white hospital by 12 years. Small at first, it housed from three to six patients at a time for modest fees of a \$5 a week and \$5 for operating room expense. By 1922 it had grown to 30 rooms with 20 beds, a laboratory, operating room, sterilizing room, x-ray NOTES wards, and private and semi-private accommodations.

Dr Burt was especially skilled in abdominal surgery and performed Cesarian sections years before the operation was common in medical practice. He treated both white and Black patients, never refusing service to anyone. He went out day or night in all kinds of weather, first by horse and buggy and later in a 1910 Overland, the first car sold in Clarksville by the Ford dealer. He attracted a staff of other able Black physicians.

Assisted by his wife, a nurse, Dr Burt began a class for training nurses in 1916, with a number of qualified graduates, among whom was Mary Ellen Jones, a beloved and familiar figure in local health care throughout her life. His Home Infirmary operated for 40 years and was closed in 1942 after several hip operations left Dr Burt unable to continue practice. Also by that time the

Clarksville Hospital was offering services to both races. Dr Burt died in 1955. His death was mourned by the entire community, for it was his character as well as his medical skill that endeared him to the town. He always took an active part in every worthwhile project in the city, for it was his philosophy that recognition for his race could best be gained by working with all segments of society.

The Leaf-Chronicle
Cumberland Lore, 7/93

RESEARCH NOTES

HOMESTEAD CASE FILE; GENEALOGIST'S GOLDMINE

Only eight months into my family research, I am technically a beginner but feel like a seasoned genealogist. I have lurked through the basements of the National Archives, Family History Center and County Clerk registrar, ordered an array of certificates, deeds, probates and wills, and experienced startling information and dead-end leads.

After perusing several deeds of Jas A. Spears, I muscled the energy to pursue another lead to ascertain my great-grandfather's heritage; specifically, his biological father and slaveholder or overseer. The reason being is that Jas A. Spears, in 1882,

was granted a Patent from the united States under the Homestead Act of 1862. It listed the certificate, application, recorded volume and page numbers. What do I have to loose? At best, I should have an insight of his life, one hundred and ten years ago.

A woman from Santa Barbara, whose name fails me, referred me to the chapter on *land and tax records* from a book entitled "the Source" by Arlene Eakle and Johnnie Cerny. Accordingly, the U.S. Government, after the Indian title was extinguished, has given and sold over a billion acres of land through numerous Homestead Acts dating from 1787 to 1916 to finance military wagon roads, canals, railroads and colleges, just to name a few. A Homestead claimant could purchase 80 acres for a mere \$2 per acre, as opposed to \$17 per acre for an unaware buyer.

Alas, all good things must come to an end, and so did Homesteading in the 1930s. But for the genealogist, the claimant's case file is "rich" in genealogical information. "The homestead acts required the claimant to show United States citizenship or an already-filed declaration of intent to become a citizen. In addition, the homestead final certificate (patent) file includes the homestead application, certificate of publication of

intent to complete the claim, final proof of homesteading (testimony from the claimant and his/her witnesses), a certified copy of the naturalization papers if needed, and a final certificate authorizing issuance of a patent. The final-proof documents give the claimant and his/her witnesses), a certified copy of the naturalization papers if needed, and a final certificate authorizing issuance of a patent. the final-proof documents give the claimant's name, age, and post office address, describe the tract and the house, the date of residence establishment, give the number and relationship of the members of the family, and note citizenship, crops, acres under cultivation, and testimony of witnesses."

It was common of claimants to submit family bibles. Although the family list may be brief for former slaves, nevertheless, it is possible that slaveholders (buyers, sellers and bequeaths) were mentioned.

For beginners who would like to pursue this avenue, I suggest you ascertain whether your ancestors were land owners by way of review of the earliest Census Schedule that will note the year County State, and the head-of-household as a "Farmer". Next, and if available, order the microfilm(s) on the County's Deeds and Mortgages covering a 10 year span; that

is, 5 years prior to and after the known date. A claimant was required to homestead for 5 years before being approved.

The Washington National Records Center in Suitland, Maryland (mailing address: Eighth and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20408) currently house the approved case files. When making a request, don't bother to send any money, as I did per instructions. WNR will return your check advising you that once the case files are located, they will give a quote. In the meantime, I patiently wait to hear the outcome.

* * * * *

HARRISON BROWN
CIVIL WAR VETERAN

Submitted By:
Charlotte Mathews

Harrison Brown, the father of Jesse Edwood Brown enlisted in the U.S. Colored Infantry as a substitute for Thomas Dodsworth, from the 3rd Ward Cincinnati, Ohio. The date of his enlistment was 19 August 1864 for the term of three years. He was assigned to Company E, 5th Regiment U.S. Colored Infantry. Ed Brown (grandson) states "*I remember the old folks talking about how Harrison played the Bugle as the call to battle.*"

He was described as 19 years old, 5 feet 3-1/2 inches; complexion black, eyes black; hair black. *Ed Brown stated that his grandfather served in*

the Army, during the Civil War at the age of 16. He was born in Virginia and worked as a farmer prior to enlistment. He made his mark on the form so we can assume he could not write at that time.

Pvt. Harrison Brown was wounded in action and hospitalized in September 1864. The company muster roll states he was in the hospital at Fort Monroe, Virginia since February 1865. the muster-out roll dated September 20, 1865, from Carolina City, North Carolina. Pay due from enlistment. Remarks show that he was freed on 19 April 1861.

In 1890 a special census was taken of person who served in the war of the rebellion. Harrison Brown is listed on page 1, Supervisor's District #9, Enumeration District #30, line 5. It shows his rank as Private; Company E;p Regiment 5, Ohio Infantry; August 1864 to August 1865; served 1 year His Post Office Address was Gamble, Pennsylvania; when this information was taken he was not at home so the exact date of discharge cannot be given.

Information extracted from the 1900 Census: Pennsylvania, Allegheny Co., Elizabeth Township, Enumeration District #376, Sheet #12B, Line, line 51 thru 85.

Harrison Brown: Black, male; born May 1850 in

Pennsylvania, parents were born in Virginia, married 20 years, Occupation farmer, he can read, write and speaks English, his property is owned free and lives in a house. He lives with his wife Hannah born September 1850, and three sons. Counsel born January 1880, Rastus born July 1882, and Jesse born April 1885. The Occupations of the sons is listed as Farmers and all could read and write.

Information extracted from the 1910 Census: Pennsylvania, Allegheny County, Precinct #2, Elizabeth Township, Enumeration District #67, Sheet #4B, Line 81 to 84. Douglas hollow Road, dwelling #64. Harrison Brown, male, mulatto, age 63, born in Ohio, parents born in Ohio, married for 32 years, occupation farmer, owns home, living with wife Hannah and sons, Counsel and Jesse.

Harrison died in 1919 at the age of 72.

* * * * *

B O R D E R L A N D S SLEUTHING

Submitted By: Ron Higgins

If your researching ancestors in Georgia, Alabama, or even the Carolinas during the period, 1784 - 1821, and you know that they were there, but you can find no trace of them? Look south. They may have gone to Florida. During the Second Spanish period in Florida, many Americans came

to Florida for a variety of reasons.

Many wanted to trade goods, or move to a new area and start over. Many wanted to escape the Creek Indian Wars that were going on in those states and sought refuge in Florida. Still others were adventurers and were participants in various plots, some sanctioned and some not, by the U.S. Government to wrest control of Florida from Spain and annex it to the United States. Also some individuals had come to Florida while it was still controlled by the British, 1763-1783, and remained when the British left, swearing allegiance to the Spanish King.

The East Florida Papers is an excellent primary source of research for the Second Spanish Period. Because of some confusion over terms of the Adams-Onis Treaty which transferred Florida from Spain to the United States, government officials seized the papers to prevent their transfer to Havana. These documents are comprised of a little of everything; letters from the governor to his militia commanders, reports on Indian activities, oaths of allegiance, census records, land transactions, personal letters, inventories, etc. The originals are located in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. These have been microfilmed and are held in various locations around the country. The closest locations

to Palatka are the P K. Ynge library at the University of Florida in Gainesville, and the St. Augustine Historical Society Library in St. Augustine.

There are 175 rolls of microfilm waiting for you. However, the P K. Ynge library, some years ago, created what they call a "Calendar". Essentially an index, each document is listed on a 3 x 5 card in English, and describes who the sender and recipient was, date, proper names and subject of the document, along with citations for finding the proper document in the microfilm. This calendar is also in microfilm and is available.

As with everything, there are problems. First, most of the documents are in Spanish. Next some of the documents are very hard to read because of penmanship, ink bleed through, etc. Many times, but not always, an American moving into Florida, after taking the oath of allegiance, adopted a spanish name, or was at least referred to in Spanish leading to some jarring combinations, such as Juan Battista Collins, or Patricio O'Reilly. Remember that names can be spelled in different ways. I've seen "Faulk" Next, some of the citations on the "Calendar" are in error. A really top-notch librarian, such as Sheri Navidi in St. Augustine can lead you through the pitfalls. Lastly there are gaps in the

collection. The papers traveled a long circuitous route between 1821, when they were microfilmed. Some have been lost to time. But some scholars suspect that some papers were smuggled out to Havana before they were seized.

I hope this gives you a new area to look for solving some of you puzzles. Happy hunting.

Yurba Linda
Genealogical society
June 93, Vol. 8 Pg. 6

ANNOUNCEMENT

DIGGING IT UP - an African-American Research and Consulting firm established by Herman "Skip" Mason. He provides genealogical research appraisal of African American Memorabilia, slide presentations, tours as well as project consultation. For more information write or call **Digging It Up, 564 Blake Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30316, 404-627-7799.**

* * * * *

REUNION TIME

Planning a reunion? Write for a free brochure from the Reunion Network, 2450 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 301, Hollywood, Fl 33020.

* * * * *

NATIVE AMERICANS

Native American ancestry: Write for a brochure from Histree, 23011 Moulton Pkwy D-12, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 or call 714-859-1659.

QUERIES

CHARLOTTE MATTHEWS is looking for defendants of Prudence Matthews, born February 1859 in Brunswick County Va., the daughter of Richard Matthews and Dina (Dinah) Reid.

Prudence Matthews had 9 children: Lady Anne Matthews (May 1880), Robert E. Matthews (Feb. 1883), Curtis Olden Mathews (June 5, 1887), John Matthews (May 1888), Willie Matthews (Jan. 1890), Leonard Matthews (1891), Toney Matthews (1893) Laura Matthews (1898), and Mary Matthews (1902?).

Found in the Brunswick County census from 1880 to 1920. In 1920 she lived in Red Oak, on Claiborne Lane a few houses from her daughter Lady Anne Graves, granddaughter Flora Matthews Williams, and son Leonard Matthews.

She died July 9, 1931 in Meredithville, Va., Brunswick County Va., buried in Amiore Church Cemetery

Send information on the above descendants to Charlotte Mathews, 12796 Waynoka Rd., Apple Valley, California.

Phone 619-240-5174.

FREDERICA Y DALY is searching for information about her paternal great-grandmother **Alice H. Quinn** who married Joseph Yung in either Tuskegee, Alabama or Spartansburg, S.C. between 1865 and 1870. Daly's grandfather Edward Yung enlisted in the 9th Cavalry Troop G in Tuskegee at age 18 with the consent of Alice Quinn. If you can be of assistance, write to **Frederica Y Daly, 526 Hermosa NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108.**

ERIN MOORE SIDERS is searching for information about her paternal great-grandparents John and Francis Underwood Moore who were born in 1882 and 1884, respectively in Clinton, N.C. and moved to Goldsboro, N.C. at the turn of the century. They lived at 107 Swan Street in Goldsboro, where John Moore was employed as a truck driver for a wholesale grocer in 1920. The Moores had six children born in Goldsboro between 1908 and 1919--John Albert, Lucille, George, Wilbert, Roscoe and Siders grandfather Roland. After the Moores died in 1921 and 1931, their children were sent to live with relatives in New York City, when Roland was 12. If you can be of assistance, write to: **Erin Moore Siders, 4 Hawthorne Place, Montclair NJ 07042.**

ELLA TUMLIN is researching the genealogy of her husband's family who resided in

Cedartown, Esom Hill and Cave Springs, Georgia from the 1850s to the 1890s. Some of the family whose surnames are Tumlin, Baker, Terrell and Wynn, moved to Birmingham and Anniston, Alabama during the late 1890s through the early 1900s. If you can be of assistance write to: **Ella Tumlin, 651 5th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118.**

MONICA NORTON - looking for Westchester and Putnam County residents who have traced their lineage back to Westchester or Putnam County slaves. You can call Monica Norton Tuesday thru Saturday at 914-694-5004 you may call Collect. Information needed for Black History Month Project.

Prodigy Network
African American Genealogy
Bulletin Board

BOOKS

BOOK RENTALS - mail order book rentals over 6,500 books available. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for details to: **Genealogical Center Library, P.O. Box 71343, Marietta, GA 30007-1343.**

INDIANA NEGRO REGISTERS 1852 - 1865 - by Coy D. Robbins - This volume is a compilation of fifteen "Registers of Negroes and mulattoes" maintained by the Clerk of County Courts between 1852 - 1865. For the

first time these registers have been made available in one publication, fully indexed, with documentation. An important source of African American history during the antebellum era, this book also contains a wealth of genealogical information. Over two thousand registrants are identified as free people of color and Hosier residents, primarily in the southern region of the state. Counties represented in the collection are: Bartholomew, Floyd, Franklin, Gibson, Harrison, Hendricks, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Martin, Ohio, Orange, Switzerland, and Washington.

Each entry includes: name, age, description, place of birth, residence, names of witnesses, and date registered. The description category often includes names of parents, when available, and physical characteristics.

Prepublication Price \$27.00, till March 1st, after \$33.00. Order from Heritage Books Inc., 1540-E Pointer Ridge PL., Suite 301, Bowie, MD 20716. Visa/Mastercard Orders 1-800-398-7709.

CLIMBING JACOB'S LADDER - by Andrew Billingsley, Ph.D. Traces the rich history of the black family from its roots in Africa, through slavery, Reconstruction the Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, and up to the present. \$14.00.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 12th - **Western Towns For Blacks**; Kenneth M. Hamilton, PhD Professor Southern Methodist University

Feb. 19th - **Black America And The California Dream**; Lonnie Bunch, PhD Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Smithsonian Institution.

Feb. 26th - **Black San Francisco, The Struggle For Racial Equality in the West 1900 - 1954**; Albert Broussard, PhD, Professor from Texas A&M University. For more information call 213-667-2000.

February 26, 1994

Trace Your African and Native American Indian Roots - Discover the rich cultural heritage of Africans and Indians, their historical relationship and contributions to the world. Lecturer Joyce Chappel. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. \$35.00.

April 18 - 21, 1994

Louisiana's African American Ancestral Research Tour - For the ancestral researcher, history buff, archivist, librarian and others seeking materials and information.

You will tour selected plantations, slave burial grounds and research facilities.

This is a 4 day package deal

including 8 meals, hotel, airfare, 8 meals, paid admission to selected Plantations, one day pass to the New Orleans "Jazz Festival". The cost is \$675.00 **Double Occupancy**. Contact the Edna Jordan Smith Project, Afro-La. Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc., PO. Box 2247, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Geralyn Johnson
213-296-6792

*

Parliamentarian
Fred Dumas
213-294-1452

*

Historian
George Jenkins
714-626-3408

THANK YOU

January Refreshment Committee, Elaine McGee, Herb Laffoon, Barbara Phillips.

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Newsletter Editor

Send all newsletter information to: GERALYN JOHNSON, 5130 Village Green, L.A., CA 90016 or call (213) 296-6792. The deadline for the March issue is March 7, 1994.

**California African American Genealogical Society
Membership Application**

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIPS:

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|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| L - LIBRARIES | (DUES \$15) _____ | N - NEW _____ |
| I - INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP | (DUES \$15) _____ | R - RENEWAL _____ |
| F - FAMILY MEMBERSHIP | (DUES \$20) _____ | |
| S - STUDENT | (DUES \$10) _____ | |
| O - ORGANIZATION | (DUES \$25) _____ | |

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

SURNAMES RESEARCHED: (IF KNOWN, INCLUDE CITY COUNTY STATE)
